

## **Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Letter of Interest**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 authorized the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to implement the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)—a \$4.7 billion one-time competitive matching grants program to expand broadband services to unserved and underserved areas, improve broadband access for public safety agencies, schools, libraries, medical and healthcare providers, community colleges and other institutions of higher education, and stimulate the economy by creating jobs. BTOP will make two-year competitive grants available to states, non-profit organizations and broadband service providers, and requires a 20 percent matching investment from nonfederal funding sources. Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Broadband Technology Program:

<http://broadbandusa.sc.egov.usda.gov/files/BB%20NOFA%20FINAL%2007092009.pdf>

The Governor will be provided an opportunity to make recommendations concerning the allocation of funds for qualifying projects in or affecting Rhode Island during the BTOP application process. The Broadband Review Team has been tasked to review applications that the NTIA has deemed qualified and recommend to the Governor those projects that should be prioritized for funding by NTIA.

### **Rhode Island's Broadband Review Team**

The Office of Economic Recovery and Reinvestment created a Broadband Review Team to develop goals, guidelines, and determine the best use of ARRA broadband competitive grant funding. The mission of the Team is to increase awareness of broadband funding opportunities, explore opportunities for collaborative efforts amongst potential applicants for broadband funding, and to obtain public comment on broadband priorities for Rhode Island.

Broadband Review Team members include:

- John Landers—State of Rhode Island -Co-chair
- Michael Pickett—Brown University -Co-chair
- Thomas Ahern—Division of Public Utilities and Carriers
- Stuart Freiman—Economic Development Corporation
- Christopher Long—Governor's Policy Office
- Carole Cotter—Lifespan
- Tony Lupinacci—State of Rhode Island—Information Technology
- David Porter—University of Rhode Island
- Richard Prull—Rhode Island College
- Stephen Vieira—Community College of Rhode Island

### **Purpose of Letter of Interest (LOI)**

The purpose of the Letter of Interest (LOI) is to encourage public/private/non-profit communities that are considering applying to NTIA for BTOP funds to submit a LOI to the Broadband Review Team in advance of submitting an application.

The Broadband Review Team will review the Letters of Interest in the context of the Rhode Island's Broadband goals and:

- provide feedback on individual proposals
- identify opportunities for collaboration across entities and projects
- advise the Governor regarding projects being submitted that impact Rhode Island

Please note that the submission of a LOI to the will not result in a financial award from the State of Rhode Island.

### **Submission Requirements for Letters of Interest to State Broadband Review Team:**

Letters on Interest should be limited to five (5 pages) and should address the following areas:

- a. BTOP Project Category
- b. Project Description
- c. Major Milestones and Associated Time Frames
- d. Agency Broadband Experience
- e. Project Partners
- f. Impact of Proposed Broadband Project
- g. Extent to Which Project Supports Public Safety, Education, and/or Healthcare
- h. Estimated Number of Jobs Created
- i. Sustainability After BTOP Funding Ends
- j. Project Budget
- k. Demonstrated Match – NTIA requires a 20% match LOI should demonstrate how match requirement will be met.

Letters of Interest should be submitted via email to the Office of Economic Recovery and Reinvestment no later than August 5, 2009 at [recoveryri@state.ri.us](mailto:recoveryri@state.ri.us) The email subject line should read: [Broadband LOI]\_[Name of Entity Submitting LOI]

### **Time Line for BTOP Funding**

July 30, 2009	LOI Issued by Broadband Review Team
August 7, 2009	LOI Due to Broadband Review Team
August 11, 2009	Broadband Review Team responds to Entities submitting LOI
August 14, 2009	BTOP applications submitted to NTIA